

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13-24 and 60-66 were examined, with all other claims having been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. All non-elected claims have been cancelled. Additionally, certain claims have been amended and new claims 67-71 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants thank Examiners Pous and Nguyen for the courteous and helpful in-person interview on October 24, 2006. The interview was attended by Recta Whitney and Angela Macfarlane, as representatives of the assignee, and the undersigned as attorney-of-record.

As discussed at the interview, independent claims 13 and 60 have been amended to further recite "*a control mechanism*" which is operatively coupled to a pair of "*articulating arms*" in order to "*open and close the pair of articulating arms.*" Claim 13 has been further amended to clarify that the arms can be initially closed to engage the leaflets and thereafter be opened to allow release of the leaflets, while claim 60 further recites that opening allows "*release and recapture of the leaflets.*" Support for these amendments is found throughout the application, including in paragraphs 136 and 0161 through 0165 of the specification as published.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/613,443

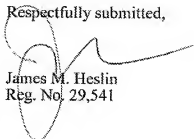
Amdt. dated November 1, 2006

Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2006

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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